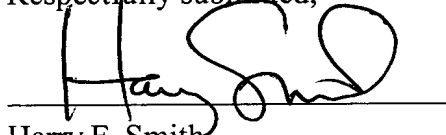


**REMARKS**

Appended to this response is a Terminal Disclaimer, signed by the attorney of record, over U.S. 6,299,996 (the parent application). Also enclosed is a copy of the recorded assignment from the parent application, showing that the parent application and corresponding issued U.S. Patent 6,299,996 are commonly owned with this continuation application.

All of the claims now pending in this continuation patent application are deemed to be in condition for allowance, and this patent application is further believed to be ready to be passed to issue. However, should there be any remaining, unresolved issue that would impede the allowance of all of the pending claims, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney at any one of the numbers appearing below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Art Unit 2686

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### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

6/23/04  
Date

Clair F. Mian  
Name of Person Making Deposit